

memorandum

DATE: June 24, 2002

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS
(DOE/EIS-0285/SA-77 – Teakean Butte Microwave Station)

TO: William Erickson
Natural Resource Specialist – TPF/Walla Walla

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management for the Teakean Butte Microwave Station. The facility is located in Clearwater County, Idaho, Walla Walla Region.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Description of the Proposal: BPA proposes bare ground vegetation management at the microwave site. Bare ground management is needed to prevent fire damage and maintain a vegetation free environment on the site.

Analysis: Please see the attached checklist for the resources present. Applicable findings and mitigation measures are discussed below.

Planning Steps:

1. Identify facility and the vegetation management need.

The facility is the Teakean Butte Microwave Site. It is a 3750 square feet (0.089 acre) site located in Section 31, T38N, R1E, B.M. The vegetation management will be bare ground and is needed to prevent fire damage to the facility.

2. Identify surrounding land use and landowners/managers and any mitigation.

Bud Adamson, 1005 Three Rivers Road, Kendrick, Idaho, 83537, own the land on which the facility is sited. A letter has been sent to Mr. Adamson notifying him of the proposed work.

The surrounding land use is forestland and grazable woodland.

3. Identify natural resources and any mitigation.

The facility is located on top of a butte. No natural resources such as water or wetlands are present. There are no neighboring wells. There is a seasonal stream located approximately 1,000 feet from the facility, but there is no pathway to that stream. There are no steep slopes associated with the work. There are no T&E species that will be impacted by the work. The only required buffer will be to maintain appropriate distances from desirable surrounding trees. This buffer will be 3 times the drip line from those desirable surrounding trees. Vegetation management shall be consistent with the Vegetation Management EIS, such that no impact will occur.

4. *Determine vegetation control and debris disposal methods.*

For the initial work, the vegetation control will be by bare ground management primarily using herbicides with supplemental usage of mechanical methods. Only BPA approved herbicides will be used for the work. All areas will be managed consistently with the Vegetation Management EIS.

Subsequent work will be accomplished during BPA's routine bare ground management program. Areas are sprayed annually by a licensed contractor. BPA's herbicide contract contains specific language to ensure herbicide applications are applied consistent with the Vegetation Management EIS. Other areas are maintained by mechanical mowing, chopping, spot spraying or burning. Herbicides will be applied on an annual or on an as needed basis. Active ingredients shall be rotated to ensure plants do not build a tolerance. Mechanical methods will be performed on an as needed basis.

Future control will be consistent with the previously described methods.

5. *Determine revegetation methods, if necessary.*

There will be no debris disposal and re-vegetation with bare ground management. For other areas, green debris will be recycled on-site to the extent practical.

6. *Determine monitoring needs.*

Monitoring will occur through herbicide contract management and the observations of BPA personnel during site visits.

7. *Prepare appropriate environmental documentation.*

No environmental documentation other than this Supplement Analysis will be required prior to performing the work.

Findings: This Supplement Analysis finds that 1) the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285) and ROD, and; 2) there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Ken Hutchinson
Ken Hutchinson
Environmental Scientist – KEPR/Walla Walla

CONCUR: /s/ Thomas C. McKinney
Thomas C. McKinney
NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 06/28/2002

Attachment

cc:

L. Croff – KEC-4
T. McKinney – KEC-4
M. Hermeston – KEP-4
J. Meyer – KEP-4
J. Sharpe – KEPR-4
P. Key – LC-7
M. Johnson – TF/DOB-1
T. Conn – TPR/Walla Walla
R. Coila – TFP/Walla Walla
M. Richardson – TFP/Walla Walla
J. Van Buren – TFPB/Franklin
C. Jones – TFPT/Lewiston
D. Morgan – TFPM/McNary
Environmental File – KEC
Official File – KEP-4 (EQ-14)

Electric Yard and Non-Electric Facility Checklist

1. IDENTIFY FACILITY AND THE VEGETATION MANAGEMENT NEED

1.1 Describe facility: (More than one facility may be listed and analyzed.)

Substation/Facility Name	Size of Area to be Treated (Acres or Square Feet)	Section Township/Range	County	State
Teakean Butte MW Site	3750 sq feet or .089 acres	31 T38N R1E B.M.	Clearwater	IDAHO

1.2 Describe vegetation needing management:

- Substation (Total vegetation management needs no further description.)

2. IDENTIFY SURROUNDING LAND USE AND LANDOWNERS/MANAGERS

2.1 List the types of landowners and land uses around your facility.

One landowner Bud Adamson 1005 Three Rivers Road, Kendrick, ID 83537. Surrounding land is forestland and grazable woodland.

2.2 Determine if there is a need to notify surrounding landowners of vegetation management activities. If so, why and how?

Letter sent to Mr. Adamson to notify him of current action

2.3 List any specific measures to be taken based on surrounding landowners/use.

Maintain appropriate buffers from desirable vegetation. 3X the drip line form desirable trees.

3. IDENTIFY NATURAL RESOURCES

3.1 List any water resources (streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands) near the facility. Does the substation drainage have a direct path to the water body? If yes, what measures will you take to limit potential impacts?

Site on top of Butte. No Natural resources such as water or wetlands present. Site is currently bare ground.

3.2 Describe the buffers that will be applied, as appropriate. What measures will you take to limit potential impacts to water resources?

No neighboring wells. No pathway to adjacent waters. Seasonal stream located 1,000 feet away, no pathway to stream. No buffers needed.

3.3 Are there any T&E species in the area that could be affected? If yes, what measures will be taken to avoid impacts?

None will be impacted. Vegetation shall be managed in a manner consistent with the VEG EIS, such that no impact shall occur.

3.4 Will herbicide treatment be occurring on any steep slopes?

No steep slopes associated with the work.

3.5 Attach drawing showing location of all required buffers.

None needed.

4. DETERMINE VEGETATION CONTROL METHODS

Describe overall vegetation management scheme and schedule:

Initial:

Bare ground managed areas will primarily use BPA approved herbicides with supplemental usage of mechanical methods. Other areas will be managed as described in section 1.2. Only herbicides from BPA's approved herbicide list will be used. All areas will be managed consistently with the Vegetation EIS.

Subsequent:

BPA has a routine program for managing bare ground areas. A licensed contractor sprays areas annually. BPA's contract contains specific language to ensure herbicides applications are applied consistent with the VEG EIS.

Other areas are maintained by mechanical mowing, chopping, spot spraying, burning,

Herbicides will be applied on an annual or on an as needed basis. Active ingredients shall be rotated to ensure plants do not build a tolerance.

Mechanical methods shall be performed on an as needed basis.

Future:

Future control will be consistent with the methods described above.

5. DETERMINE DEBRIS DISPOSAL AND REVEGETATION

Describe debris disposal and re-vegetation, if any.

There will be no debris disposal and re-vegetation with bare ground management. For other areas green debris will be recycled on-site to the extent practical.

6. DETERMINE MONITORING NEEDS

Is there a need to monitor adjacent areas for potential herbicide movement/contamination? If so, describe monitoring plan.

Monitoring will occur through herbicide contract management and the observations of BPA Personnel during on site visits.

7. PREPARE APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

7.1 Describe any potential project impacts or project work that are different than those disclosed in the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program EIS. Describe how those differences impact natural resources and if the differences are "substantial".

No differences

7.2 Is there a need for additional NEPA documentation (i.e. Forest Service requirement, Record of Decision, supplemental EIS)? If so, attach.

None required.